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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/658,618	09/08/2000	Hiroki Ogata	SCEI 3.0-030	3345

7590

06/19/2002

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EXAMINER

NELSON, ALECIA DIANE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2675

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2002

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/658,618

Applicant(s)
Ogata et al.

Examiner
Alecia Nelson

Art Unit
2675



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Sep 8, 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 4 & 6 20) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2675

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been made of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The references listed in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on 12/21/00 and 6/4/01 have been made of record and has been considered by the examiner (see attached PTO-1449).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. *Claims 1-17* are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang (Patent No. 288636) in view of Armstrong (U.S. Patent No. 6,102,802).

Art Unit: 2675

With reference to **claims 1, 2, 4 and 14-17**, Wang teaches a control apparatus (1) for usage in an entertainment device comprising a controller and a detecting device (11) which can be pressed and operated for outputting an analog signal corresponding to the pressing operation of the controller, a level segmenting unit (12) for segmenting the analog signal which is outputted by the detecting device in accordance with the pressing operation of the controller into a plurality of levels, and an A/D converting unit for converting the analog signal into a digital signal in accordance with the output level which is segmented by the level segmenting unit. With reference to claim 2 Wang teaches, with reference to a second embodiment, that the switch scanning circuit (12 and the A/D converter and the CPU can be placed within microprocessor (22).

Wang fails to specifically teach a segmenting range setting unit for setting a range of output levels of the analog signal wherein the plurality of levels is segmented within the range which is set by the segmenting range setting unit. However Wang does teach that the pressure sensitive resistor (11) has a resistance value varying with different pressures applied thereon. It is also taught that the resistor (11) is divided into four regions representing a moving direction. The switching scanning circuit (12) repeatedly scans four switches to detect a region of the pressure sensitive resistor pressed (see page 3, lines 18-37). Therefore it would be inherent for there to be some type of charge provided by the resistor. Further with reference to **claim 3**, Wang fails to specifically teach a memory device, however it would be inherent for there to be a way to store the predetermined voltages provide by the pressure-sensitive resistor for each of the directions of movement.

Art Unit: 2675

Armstrong teaches a game controller having pressure sensitive variable conductance material across proximal circuit traces in order to provide variable output. Such variable output is useful for control of action intensity of electronic imagery in proportion to applied physical pressure in the depression of familiar control surfaces of a game controller (see column 2, lines 55-61). Applied physical pressure is provided by a user of the present controller depressing a button which applies pressure onto pressure-sensitive variable conductance material which, dependant upon applied pressure, alters its conductivity and thereby provides analog electrical output proportional to the applied pressure. The analog electrical output of the variable conductance material is output to an image generation machine as a signal at least representational of the analog electrical output for controlling electronic imagery (see column 3, lines 1-8). Armstrong also teaches, with further reference to **claims 7-9 and 11-13**, voltage/current can be regulated and varied by way of applied physical pressure such as onto plate (38) to compress material (36) which alters the conductivity of the circuit at least in part defined by circuit traces (32,34). (see column 6, lines 6-48). With reference to **claims 5, 6, 10**, Armstrong teaches that electricity manipulating devices (24) can be any electrical device such as a simple OFF/ON switches (see column 5, lines 63-65).

Therefore it would have been obvious for there to be set voltage ranges as taught by Wang and Armstrong in order to thereby provide a controller to be used with an entertainment apparatus which allows the user with a controller which has improved controller signals for controlling the electronic imagery of the device.

Art Unit: 2675

Conclusion

5. Any response to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231; or faxed to (703)309-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry) or: (703)308-6606 (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED or DRAFT). Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive Arlington, VA., Sixth floor (Receptionist).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alecia D. Nelson whose telephone number is (703)305-0143.

If attempts to reach the above examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve Saras, can be reached at (703)305-9720.

and/AND
June 14, 2002


DENNIS-DOON CHOW
PRIMARY EXAMINER